

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A control apparatus of a vehicle equipped with an engine generating drive power, an electric motor generating drive power, a charging mechanism supplying electric power to ~~said the~~ electric motor, and a catalyst purifying gases emitted ~~as the drive power of said vehicle is generated, from the engine~~, comprising:

a switch to be operated by a driver for running the vehicle only by the electric motor supplied with electric power from the charging mechanism;

first control means for running the vehicle only by the electric motor supplied with electric power from ~~said the~~ charging mechanism ~~in accordance with an operation of a driver;~~ under conditions that the switch is turned on;

determination means for determining whether ~~said the~~ catalyst requires to be warmed up or not;

second control means for running the vehicle by the electric motor supplied with electric power from ~~said the~~ charging ~~mechanism;~~ mechanism and operating the engine to warm up the catalyst with exhaust gases emitted from the engine, when it is determined that the catalyst requires to be warmed up; and

prohibition means for prohibiting control by ~~said the~~ first control means ~~based on a predetermined condition as to whether execution of control by said second control means is possible or not;~~ when a remaining amount of electric power of the charging mechanism is smaller than an amount which is determined by adding: (i) a lower limit value with which the charging mechanism can supply electric power to the electric motor to (ii) a decrease amount by which the electric power of the charging mechanism will be decreased at an end of the warming up by the second control means.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The control apparatus of a vehicle according to claim 1, further comprising

information means for ~~informing a~~ informing the driver that control by ~~said the~~ first control means is prohibited, when control by ~~said the~~ first control means is prohibited.

6. (Currently Amended) A control apparatus of a vehicle equipped with an engine generating drive power, an electric motor generating drive power, a charging mechanism supplying electric power to ~~said the~~ electric motor, and a catalyst purifying gases emitted ~~as the drive power of said vehicle is generated, from the engine~~, comprising:

a switch to be operated by a driver for running the vehicle only by the electric motor supplied with electric power from the charging mechanism;

a first control unit running the vehicle only by the electric motor supplied with electric power from ~~said the~~ charging mechanism ~~in accordance with an operation of a driver;~~ under conditions that the switch is turned on;

a determination unit determining whether ~~said the~~ catalyst requires to be warmed up or not;

a second control unit running the vehicle by the electric motor supplied with electric power from ~~said the~~ charging ~~mechanism;~~ mechanism and operating the engine to warm up the catalyst with exhaust gases emitted from the engine, when it is determined that the catalyst requires to be warmed up; and

a prohibition unit prohibiting control by ~~said the~~ first control unit ~~based on a predetermined condition as to whether execution of control by said second control unit is possible or not;~~ when a remaining amount of electric power of the charging mechanism is smaller than an amount which is determined by adding: (i) a lower limit value with which the charging mechanism can supply electric power to the electric motor to (ii) a decrease amount

by which the electric power of the charging mechanism will be decreased at an end of the warming up by the second control unit.

7-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The control apparatus of a vehicle according to claim 6, further comprising

an information unit ~~informing~~ informing the driver that control by said the first control unit is prohibited when control by said the first control unit is prohibited.

11. (Currently Amended) A control method of a vehicle equipped with an engine generating drive power, an electric motor generating drive power, a charging mechanism supplying electric power to ~~said the~~ electric motor, ~~and~~ a catalyst purifying gases emitted ~~from said vehicle, from the engine, and a switch to be operated by a driver for running the vehicle only by the electric motor supplied with electric power from the charging mechanism,~~ comprising:

a step of running the vehicle only by the electric motor supplied with electric power from ~~said the~~ charging mechanism ~~in accordance with an operation of a driver; under conditions that the switch is turned on;~~

a step of determining whether ~~said the~~ catalyst requires to be warmed up or not;

a step of running the vehicle by the electric motor supplied with electric power from ~~said the~~ charging mechanism, ~~mechanism and operating the engine to warm up the catalyst with exhaust gases emitted from the engine,~~ when it is determined that the catalyst requires to be warmed up; and

a step of prohibiting control by the step of running the vehicle ~~in accordance with an operation of a driver based on a predetermined condition as to whether execution of control by the step of running the vehicle when it is determined that the catalyst requires to be warmed up is possible or not.~~ only by the electric motor supplied with electric power from the

charging mechanism under conditions that the switch is turned on, when a remaining amount of electric power of the charging mechanism is smaller than an amount which is determined by adding: (i) a lower limit value with which the charging mechanism can supply electric power to the electric motor to (ii) a decrease amount by which the electric power of the charging mechanism will be decreased at an end of the warming up.

12-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The control method of a vehicle according to claim 11, further comprising

a step of informing ~~a driver~~the driver that control by ~~said the~~ step of running the vehicle ~~in accordance with an operation of a driver only~~ by the electric motor supplied with electric power from the charging mechanism under conditions that the switch is turned on is prohibited, when control by ~~said the~~ step of running the vehicle ~~in accordance with an operation of a driver~~ only by the electric motor supplied with electric power from the charging mechanism under conditions that the switch is turned on is prohibited.